

LEVEL B (B1 & B2) on the scale set by the Council of Europe
MODULE 1 Reading comprehension and language awareness

May 2014

PART A - CHOICE ITEMS

ACTIVITY 1

1.1 Read the text and choose the best answer (A, B, or C) for items 1a-2a.

- 1a. This text informs us that beauty influences the attitudes of
A. male and female politicians. B. researchers and academics. C. employers and voters.
- 2a. Overall, the text suggests that good-looking people
A. stay longer in the same job. B. are more efficient at work. C. get jobs more easily.

CAREER & EDUCATION

24

The influence of beauty

Imagine you have two candidates for a job. They are both of the same sex. Their CVs are both good, and they both give a good interview. Are you influenced by their appearance?



Perhaps not. But most employers, according to research, are. If appearance doesn't matter, why do people dress up for job interviews? It seems our looks do make a difference both to how much we make and how we get on in our career.

Dr. Alexander Hammerstein of the University of Texas has collected evidence which shows that beauty and success go together.

Dr. Hammerstein's surveys show that beautiful people are paid more than the

average. In one example, Hammerstein looked at the careers of graduates from one of the best American universities. He found that people who were thought to be attractive on the basis of their graduation photographs earned higher salaries than their less attractive colleagues.

Good-looking politicians also tend to get more votes. In Finland, researchers asked foreigners to look at the candidates' campaign photographs and put them in order of beauty. They then compared the lists with the actual election results: the more beautiful candidates, according to people who knew nothing about Finland's politicians, tended to be more successful. In this case, the 'beauty effect' was larger for women than for men.

But judging people on their looks is risky. In the long-term, says Professor Hammerstein, you should not let appearances fool you: employers may choose good-looking people but these people are not always the best ones for the job. You can't judge a book by looking at its cover.

ATTENTION

- Try to answer all the questions.
- Mark your answers on Answer Sheet 1 [ΑΠΑΝΤΗΤΙΚΟ ΕΝΤΥΠΟ 1].
- Provide ONE answer for each item.
- You have **85 minutes** to complete this exam.

1.2 Read the text again and choose the best answer (A, B, or C) for items 3a-6a.

3a. According to the text, good-looking people

- A. earn more money. B. tend to dress better. C. do better at university.

4a. The people in Dr. Hammerstein's photographs

- A. were good at their job. B. were all very attractive. C. had completed their studies.

5a. In Finland, the most successful candidates in elections tended to be

- A. good-looking women. B. handsome men. C. the best-dressed candidates.

6a. The aim of the last paragraph is to

- A. give more evidence. B. confirm the previous points. C. present a different opinion.

ACTIVITY 2

Read the information in the text below and match the meaning of each underlined word (7a-11a) with options A-F. There is one option you do not need.

A. difficult	B. usual	C. safe	D. first	E. pointless	F. irritable
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TIPS FOR PARENTS

Teen Depression

Depression can affect people of all ages. Although it is (7a) normal for most children and teenagers to feel sad sometimes, some young people can experience serious depression; this should not be ignored by parents. It might put the child's life in danger.

(8a) Early signs that children are depressed can be feelings of sadness and boredom; they cannot relax and may feel life is (9a) empty; it has no meaning.

Young people who are often described as 'clinically' depressed, feel (10a) moody and their bad mood could last for weeks or months. They lose interest in activities that they used to find enjoyable, like playing with friends. Parents should learn how to spot the symptoms of depression in their children before the problem gets too (11a) serious to tackle. Better safe than sorry!

ACTIVITY 3

Read the email below and choose the best option (A-G) for each gap (12a-17a). Use each option once only. There is one option you do not need.

A. guess	B. give	C. write	D. join	E. wait	F. escape	G. send
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Untitled - Message (HTML)

File Message Insert Options Format Text Review

Send From: To: Subject:

Hi Terri, how are things? Sorry I've taken so long to (12a) _____ back to you but the beginning of the year has been a bit busy. You know what it's like. The good news is that, after months of working non-stop, I've decided to (13a) _____ myself a break at the end of November, to (14a) _____ from this awful English weather. It's always so cold, dark and damp! Bet you can't (15a) _____ where we're going: Majorca! It'll be a big college reunion: my 3 best mates from Stockport College are going to come, plus Maureen has decided to (16a) _____ us, for the first time. The big reunion has become an annual thing now (the previous meetings were in Stockport and Buxton, Derbyshire). Can't (17a) _____. But I guess I'll have to be patient for a couple of months.

Hope everything's OK at your end. Kisses to Jane!

Love, Trevor

ACTIVITY 4

4.1 Read the text below and choose the best answer (A, B, or C) for items 18a-20a.

- 18a.** This was a text written by someone who writes with
 A. her left hand. B. her right hand. C. both hands.
- 19a.** The main aim of the text is
 A. to make a suggestion. B. to give information. C. to entertain the reader.
- 20a.** What is the author's attitude toward the way left-handed people are treated?
 A. Critical. B. Indifferent. C. Ironic.

Psychology Today | Brain Function

25

Left and right

By Justine Holmes

Historically, left-handedness was considered negative in many cultures. The Latin word *sinistra* originally meant 'left' but later it took on meanings of 'evil' or 'unlucky'. This double meaning is still found in Romance languages and in the English word 'sinister'. The right hand, historically, is linked to skill: the Latin word for 'right-handed' is *dexter*, as in 'dexterity', meaning skill with your hands.

In many modern European languages, including English, the word for the direction 'right' also means 'correct' or 'proper'. This is the case in most Slavic languages, too, where, for example, the root *prav* is used in words or phrases expressing concepts such as correctness or justice, so if you want to say 'you're right' or 'that's right' you can just say '*prav!*'.

The French word *gauche* ('left') means clumsy or awkward, and *adroit* (related to *droit*, 'right') means 'skilful'. These meanings of *gauche* have entered English, too. But 'left' can also have positive meanings. For example, in tennis, it is more difficult to beat left-handed players (like myself) if you are a right-handed player. Indigenous peoples of the Andes believe that we, left-handers, have special spiritual abilities, such as magic. I still haven't tested this gift, but hope to, one day!

Because the vast majority of the world's population is right-handed, most everyday objects are made with right-handers in mind. We, left-handers, often struggle to find tools we are comfortable with. It's an unjust, right-handed world!



4.2 Read the text again, and decide if statements 21a-26a are True (A), False (B), or Not Stated (C).

STATEMENTS		A	B	C
		TRUE	FALSE	NOT STATED
21a.	'Left-handed' usually means 'skilful'.			
22a.	Left-handed people do badly at school.			
23a.	The Slavic word <i>prav</i> has positive meanings.			
24a.	Left-handed people are often clumsy.			
25a.	In the Andes, left-handed people are thought to have a special talent.			
26a.	Tools for left-handers are uncommon.			

ACTIVITY 5

Read the text below and do the task that follows.

APRIL 20, 2014

MOTORSPORTS NEWS

48

A Modern Greek Knight

What does a Greek refugee from Smyrna have in common with Britain's best-selling car ever?

Sir Alexander Constantine Issigonis was a Greek-British engineer, now remembered mainly for the revolutionary Mini, which was manufactured by the British Motor Corporation in 1959.



Issigonis was born in Smyrna in 1906. His grandfather, Demosthenis Issigonis, migrated to Smyrna from Paros in the 1830s. Through the work he did for the British-built Smyrna-Aydin Railway, Demosthenis acquired British nationality. Demosthenis' son (Alex's father) Constantine Issigonis, was born, with British nationality, in Smyrna in 1872. Constantine studied in England, and later, passed on his love of all things English to his son.

Following the death of his father in 1922 and the Asia Minor catastrophe, Alex and his mother moved to the UK. Alex studied engineering at Battersea Polytechnic in London. He failed his mathematics exams three times; later, he called pure mathematics 'the enemy of every creative genius'. After completing his university education at the University of London, Issigonis went into the motor industry as an engineer and designer, and also competed successfully in motor racing during the 1930s and 1940s.

He worked on various projects for Morris through the war and towards its end he started working on a car codenamed *Mosquito* that became the Morris Minor which was produced from 1948 until 1971.

However, at the end of 1956, when petrol was very expensive, Issigonis was asked to design a smaller car as quickly as possible. In August 1959, the car appeared on the market and became known as the *Mini*.

The Mini went on to become the best selling British car in history. The innovative design, with incredible space efficiency, was still being manufactured in 2000 and has been the inspiration for many small cars produced since the early 1960s.

In the 1960s, with the Mini gaining popularity, Issigonis' career took off as he was promoted to Technical Director of British Motor Corporation. Issigonis was elected to the Royal Society in 1967 and was awarded a knighthood in 1969. Not surprisingly, he was soon nicknamed 'The Greek god' by his contemporaries.

Although Issigonis is most famous for his creation of the Mini, he was most proud of his role in the design of another car: the Morris Minor. He considered it to be a vehicle that combined many of the luxuries of a good motor car, with a price suitable for the working classes –in contrast to the Mini, which was a simple vehicle, uncomfortable, with everything kept to a minimum.

Sir Alex retired from the motor industry in 1971, although he continued working until shortly before he passed away.

Choose the best answer (A, B, or C) for items 27a-35a.

- 27a.** The aim of this text is to
A. describe Issigonis' professional life. **B.** sum up Issigonis' personal life. **C.** report new facts about Issigonis.
- 28a.** This text might have appeared
A. at the height of Issigonis' career. **B.** just before Issigonis' retired. **C.** after Issigonis' death.
- 29a.** Issigonis is mostly remembered as
A. a car designer. **B.** a racing driver. **C.** a Greek refugee.
- 30a.** How did Issigonis' father influence Alex? He
A. inspired him to appreciate the English culture. **B.** made him become an engineer. **C.** persuaded him to move to England.
- 31a.** What was Alex Issigonis' opinion of Pure Mathematics? He thought
A. it was necessary. **B.** engineers had to learn it. **C.** it limits imagination.
- 32a.** When he had finished his studies, Alex Issigonis
A. went into the automobile business. **B.** became a car mechanic. **C.** taught engineering.
- 33a.** The Mini could be described as
A. a model for other motor industries. **B.** a cheap but luxurious car. **C.** a car suitable for the working class.
- 34a.** Issigonis thought the Morris Minor, compared to the Mini, was
A. more comfortable. **B.** more expensive to run. **C.** more trendy.
- 35a.** Another title for this text could be
A. Issigonis: Rise and Fall. **B.** Mini: Britain's First Car. **C.** Issigonis: The Father of the Mini.

ACTIVITY 6

Read these descriptions of different kinds of books (36a-41a) and match them with the appropriate types of text (A-H). There are two options you do not need.

A.	biography	B.	fairy tale	C.	science fiction	D.	autobiography
E.	romance	F.	science	G.	history	H.	crime

36a.	Packed with beautiful princesses, frightening giants and monsters, they will delight young children and make excellent bed-time reading.	
37a.	Dorothy Samson is a famous private detective. She solves the most difficult cases; when the police give up, Samson steps in.	
38a.	Drawing on interviews with Bates' family and friends, the author describes the sadness and joy of this great actor's career.	
39a.	The story of Oliver and Jenny, expresses so clearly the joy and pain of true love, without melodrama... A moving story!	
40a.	The narrator describes the invasion of earth by Martians. It is one of the earliest stories about war between humans and an alien race.	
41a.	There's something very mathematical about our Universe, and the more carefully we look, the more maths we seem to find in it. So what do we make of all these hints of mathematics in our physical world?	

ACTIVITY 7

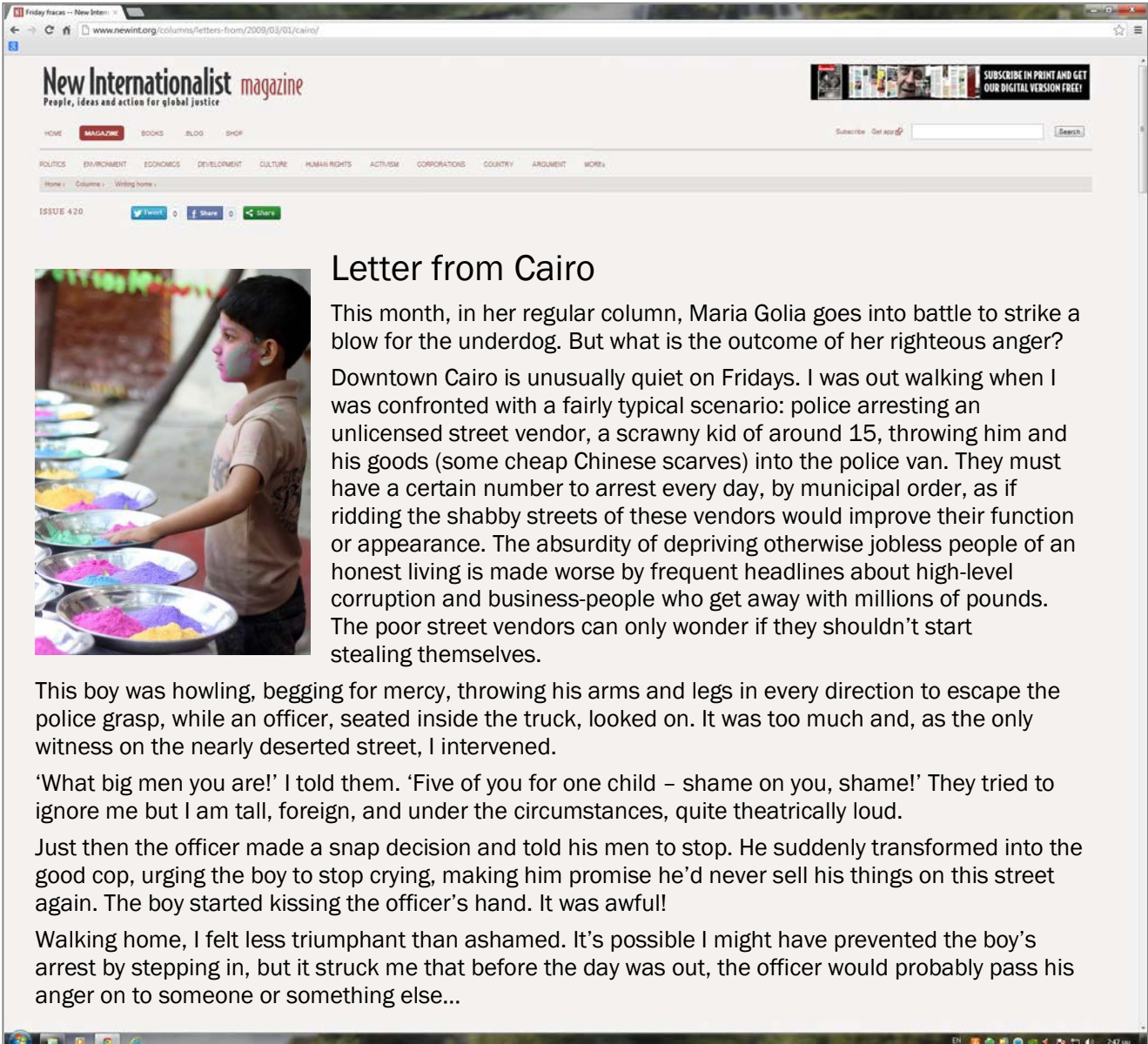
7.1 Read the text below and choose the best answer (A, B, or C) for items 42a-43a.

42a. This text

- A. reports the news. B. tells a story. C. gives advice.

43a. What can we infer from the way the writer describes the events? Events such as these

- A. happen frequently. B. attract a lot of media attention. C. are a recent development.



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Letter from Cairo

This month, in her regular column, Maria Golia goes into battle to strike a blow for the underdog. But what is the outcome of her righteous anger?

Downtown Cairo is unusually quiet on Fridays. I was out walking when I was confronted with a fairly typical scenario: police arresting an unlicensed street vendor, a scrawny kid of around 15, throwing him and his goods (some cheap Chinese scarves) into the police van. They must have a certain number to arrest every day, by municipal order, as if ridding the shabby streets of these vendors would improve their function or appearance. The absurdity of depriving otherwise jobless people of an honest living is made worse by frequent headlines about high-level corruption and business-people who get away with millions of pounds. The poor street vendors can only wonder if they shouldn't start stealing themselves.

This boy was howling, begging for mercy, throwing his arms and legs in every direction to escape the police grasp, while an officer, seated inside the truck, looked on. It was too much and, as the only witness on the nearly deserted street, I intervened.

'What big men you are!' I told them. 'Five of you for one child – shame on you, shame!' They tried to ignore me but I am tall, foreign, and under the circumstances, quite theatrically loud.

Just then the officer made a snap decision and told his men to stop. He suddenly transformed into the good cop, urging the boy to stop crying, making him promise he'd never sell his things on this street again. The boy started kissing the officer's hand. It was awful!

Walking home, I felt less triumphant than ashamed. It's possible I might have prevented the boy's arrest by stepping in, but it struck me that before the day was out, the officer would probably pass his anger on to someone or something else...

7.2 Read the text again, and choose the best answer (A, B, or C) for items 44a-46a.

44a. The writer is angry because

- A. the streets are full of salespeople. B. the police are unfair. C. the police are breaking the law.

45a. Why did the police let the boy go? Because

- A. the boy had done nothing illegal. B. they were embarrassed. C. there were no witnesses.

46a. At the end, the writer feels

- A. disappointed. B. victorious. C. furious.

7.3 What do the phrases in italics mean? Choose the best answer (A, B, or C) for items 47a-50a.

- 47a. Maria Golia strides into battle to *strike a blow* for the underdog.
 A. attack B. help C. fight
- 48a. I was out walking when I *was confronted by* a fairly typical scenario.
 A. came across B. read about C. found out about
- 49a. Just then the officer made a *snap* decision and told his men to stop.
 A. quick B. strange C. good
- 50a. *It struck me* that before the day was out, the officer would pass his anger on to someone or something else.
 A. it made me sad B. something hit me C. I suddenly thought

PART B - SHORT ANSWERS**ACTIVITY 1**

Use the correct form of the words in parentheses to complete the items 1b-5b, as in the example.

Tips for Surviving a Recession

These are hard times. Here is what you've been waiting for:



How to live more (EX) economically (economy) and still enjoy life. First of all, whenever you go to the shops, make sure you have a (1b) _____ (shop) list. Make a note of the things you need, and only buy the things on your list. You should also avoid shopping at the supermarket – it is (2b) _____ (prefer) to buy from the small grocer's shop. In the long-run, you will spend less because the (3b) _____ (tempt) is not that strong. When you buy cereal avoid the big brand names. If your kids complain about generic cereal, put the cereal in their (4b) _____ (favour) brand box. They probably won't know the difference!

Finally, you save (5b) _____ (electric) by turning off all electrical equipment at the plug every night – and keep the lights off during the day.

ACTIVITY 2

Complete the items below (6b-10b) with ONE word that suits both statements. The first letter of the word is given.

- 6b. a) I don't s_____ why I should do the washing up all the time. It's not fair!
 b) They could still s_____ their hometown as it once was.
- 7b. a) There was a t_____ when horses were the main form of transport.
 b) He always needs extra t_____ to solve mathematical problems.
- 8b. a) Be careful not to f_____! The road is covered in ice.
 b) No, thanks! I am not going to f_____ for that trick again.
- 9b. a) I find it difficult to e_____ myself in English. Can I say it in Greek?
 b) Please send the letter by e_____ mail because I need it urgently.
- 10b. a) How old do you have to be to open an a_____ with the bank?
 b) We have to a_____ for the missing money. Someone must have taken it.

**ΣΑΣ ΥΠΕΝΘΥΜΙΖΟΥΜΕ ΟΤΙ ΠΡΕΠΕΙ ΝΑ ΜΕΤΑΦΕΡΕΤΕ ΟΛΕΣ ΤΙΣ ΑΠΑΝΤΗΣΕΙΣ ΣΤΟ ΕΝΤΥΠΟ 1
 ΤΕΛΟΣ ΜΗΝΥΜΑΤΟΣ**